

What is claimed is:

1. A system, comprising:

5 a tuner for tuning to a radio station and for converting a signal transmitted by said radio station to an audio signal;

a memory unit for storing one or more templates; and

a recognition processor, coupled to said tuner and to said memory unit, for receiving said audio signal, generating templates from said audio signal, and comparing said generated,  
10 templates to at least one of said one or more templates stored in said memory unit.

2. The system of claim 1, wherein if one of said generated templates matches one of said one or more templates stored in said memory unit, said tuner is automatically tuned to a different radio station than the one to which said tuner is currently tuned.

15 3. The system of claim 1, wherein a template is a digital representation of a sample of an audio signal.

4. The system of claim 1, wherein each of said one or more templates stored in said  
20 memory unit corresponds to content that a user of the system has indicated a dislike thereof.

5. The system of claim 4, further comprising:

a second tuner for tuning to a second radio station and for converting a signal transmitted by said second radio station to an audio signal;

a second recognition processor, coupled to said second tuner, for receiving said audio signal produced by said second tuner, for generating templates from said received audio signal, and for comparing said generated templates to one or more previously generated templates that correspond to content for which the user has indicated a listening preference.

6. The system of claim 5, wherein if one of said templates generated by said second recognition processor matches one of said one or more previously generated templates, the first tuner is automatically tuned to said second radio station.

7. A system, comprising:

a CD player that produces an audio signal;

a memory unit for storing one or more templates; and

a recognition processor, coupled to said CD player and to said memory unit, for receiving said audio signal, generating templates from said audio signal, and comparing said generated templates to said one or more templates stored in said memory unit.

8. The system of claim 7, wherein if one of said generated templates matches one of said one or more templates stored in said memory unit, said CD player is caused to automatically skip to a next song.

9. The system of claim 8, wherein a template is a digital representation of a sample of an audio signal.

10. A system, comprising:

5 a tuner for tuning to a radio station and for converting a signal transmitted by said radio station to an audio signal;

a memory unit for storing one or more templates; and

means for receiving said audio signal, generating templates from said audio signal, and comparing said generated templates to at least one of said one or more templates stored in said  
10 memory unit.

11. The system of claim 10, wherein if one of said generated templates matches one of said one or more templates stored in said memory unit, said tuner is automatically tuned to a different radio station than the one to which said tuner is currently tuned.

15 12. In a system comprising a tuner tuned to a first radio station, a method, comprising the steps of:

generating an audio signal from a signal transmitted by the first radio station;

generating templates from said audio signal;

20 comparing said generated templates to one or more previously generated templates; and

causing the tuner to tune to a second radio station if one of said templates generated from said audio signal matches one of said previously generated templates.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein each of said one or more previously generated templates is generated from an audio signal that contains content that a user of the system has indicated a dislike thereof.

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14. In a system comprising a first tuner tuned to a first radio station and a second tuner tuned to a second radio station, a method, comprising the steps of:

generating an audio signal from a signal transmitted by the second radio station;

generating templates from said audio signal;

10 comparing said templates to one or more previously generated templates; and

causing the first tuner to tune to the second radio station if one of said templates generated from said second audio signal matches one of said previously generated templates.

15 15. The method of claim 14, wherein each of said one or more previously generated templates is associated with an audio signal that contains content in which a user of the system has indicated a listening preference.

16. The method of claim 15, further comprising the step of causing the second tuner to tune to a different radio station than the one to which the second tuner is currently tuned.

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17. The method of claim 15, further comprising the steps of:

generating an audio signal from a signal transmitted by the first radio station;

generating templates from said audio signal generated from said signal transmitted by the first radio station;

comparing said templates generated from said audio signal generated from said signal transmitted by the first radio station to one or more previously generated templates; and

causing the first tuner to tune to a radio station that is different than the first radio station if one of said templates generated from said audio signal generated from said signal transmitted by the first radio station matches one of said previously generated templates to which said one of said templates was compared.

18. The method of claim 17, wherein each of said one or more previously generated templates is generated from an audio signal that contains content that a user of the system has indicated a dislike thereof.

19. A system, comprising:  
at least one control panel;  
means for producing an audio signal;  
a speaker system, coupled to said audio signal producing means, for emitting sound associated with said audio signal;  
means for generating a template from said audio signal;  
means for determining whether a user of the system has activated a predetermined push button or buttons provided on said at least one control panel; and  
adding means for adding said template to at least one of two or more sets of templates,

wherein said adding means adds said template to said at least one of said two or more sets of templates if said determining means determines that said user has activated said predetermined push button or buttons.

5           20.     The system of claim 19, wherein said means for producing an audio signal is a tuner that receives a signal transmitted from a radio station and produces said audio signal from said signal.

10           21.     The system of claim 19, wherein said means for producing an audio signal is a compact disc player.

22.     In a sound system having at least one control panel, a method for adding a template to a set of templates, comprising:

producing an audio signal;

15           generating the template from said audio signal;

determining whether a user of the system has indicated a dislike of the content associated with said audio signal; and

adding said template to the set of templates if said determining means determines that said user has indicated a dislike of the content associated with said audio signal.

20           23.     The method of claim 22, wherein the step of determining whether a user of the system has indicated a dislike of the content associated with said audio signal comprises the step

of determining whether a user of the system has activated a predetermined push button or buttons provided on the at least one control panel.

24. In a sound system having at least one control panel, a method for adding a  
5 template to a set of templates, comprising:

producing an audio signal;

generating the template from said audio signal;

determining whether a user of the system has indicated a listening preference for the content associated with said audio signal; and

10 adding said template to the set of templates if said determining means determines that said user has indicated a listening preference for the content associated with said audio signal.

25. The method of claim 24, wherein the step of determining whether a user of the system has indicated a listening preference for the content associated with said audio signal  
15 comprises the step of determining whether a user of the system has activated a predetermined push button or buttons provided on the at least one control panel.